

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEED FOR EXPANDED E-C AND CONSULAR STAFF AND FACILITIES

REF: BAGHDAD A-7 OF MARCH 22, 1975

1. SUMMARY: AS RECOMMENDED IN REPAIR CURRENT AND FORE-SEEABLE USINT WORKLOAD MAKES IMPERATIVE ADDITION OF AT LEAST TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS AND THREE LOCAL EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS SETTING UP OF SEPARATE COMMERCIAL OFFICE. SINCE USINT HAS ONLY THREE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND IRAQ HAS EIGHT IN WASHINGTON, GOI SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO IMMEDIATE EXPANSION. END SUMMARY

2. USINT CAN EASILY EMPLOY TWO FULL-TIME AMERICAN E-C OFFICERS. POST IS CURRENTLY EXEMPTED FROM MANY CERP AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS (E.G. WTDRS) BECAUSE OF MINUSCULE STAFF. NEED FOR REPORTING ON PETROLEUM, FINANCE, SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS INCREASINGLY HEAVY DEMANDS TO BRIEF US BUSINESSMEN MAKES CLEAR CASE FOR IMMEDIATE ADDITION OF FSO-5/6 E-C POSITION.

3. OUR PROPOSAL IS THAT NEW OFFICER, PRESENT E-C OFFICER AND STAFF OF FOUR LOCALS (ECONOMIST, PROMOTION SPECIALIST, SECRETARY AND DRIVER) MOVE TO SEPARATE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL LOCATION. UNANIMOUS OPINION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHES HERE IS THAT SUCH PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF COMMERCIAL FROM CHANCERY

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WORK HIGHLY DESIRABLE. IN ANY EVENT CURRENT USINT

FACILITY ALREADY OVER-CROWDED. ON ONE RECENT WORKDAY WE WERE VISITED BY 17 MAN MISSISSIPPI STATE TRADE MISSION, FOUR EXECUTIVES OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, THREE FROM FNCB, FOUR FROM ALCOA AND ONE FROM DU PONT, AS WELL AS FIVE IRAQI PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSMEN. OUR OFFICE FACILITIES WERE BURSTING AS SENIOR US EXECUTIVES (INCLUDING GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI) VIED WITH DOZEN OR SO VISA APPLICANTS FOR SEATS IN OUR TINY LOBBY. FOUR E-C LOCALS WOULD INCLUDE TWO FROM CURRENT USINT STAFF PLUS UNIVERSITY-TRAINED ECONOMIST TO BE HIRED, AND A DRIVER. THUS ONLY TWO NEW E-C LOCAL SLOTS REQUIRED.

4. WE ALSO REQUEST SECOND OFFICER AT FSO-6 LEVEL TO DO CONSULAR AND POLITICAL WORK, RELEASING PRESENT CONSULAR-ADMIN OFFICER FOR FULL-TIME ADMIN WORK. CONSULAR WORK LOAD RISING RAPIDLY AND WE WILL ALSO REQUIRE ON ADDITIONAL CONSULAR CLERK.

5. ADMIN WORKLOAD WILL RISE IN SUPPORT OF ESCALATING E-C AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS AND NEED TO SUPPORT MOVE OF E-C SECTION AND MOVE OF USINT FROM PRESENT QUARTERS WHICH MUST BE DONE BEFORE LEASE RUNS OUT IN MAY 1976.

6. WE ASSUME THAT RECENT CLOSING OF US POSTS IN INDOCHINA MAY MAKE LARGE NUMBER POSITIONS (BOTH AMERICAN AND LOCAL) AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING WORLD-WIDE. WE ARE SURE THAT THERE ARE SUDDENLY AND TRAGICALLY UPROOTED FSOS WHO WOULD WELCOME CHANCE FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSFER HERE. THEY CAN DO EFFECTIVE WORK IN THE EXCITING, EXPANDING IRAQI MARKETPLACE. WE WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME TWO FSOS IMMEDIATELY.

6. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IN LINE WITH RECOMMENDATION IN ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT THAT WE BEGIN EXPANDING TO SMALL EMBASSY SIZE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER RESUMPTION TAKES PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE OR NOT. FULL JUSTIFICATION IS, IN OUR VIEW, CONTAINED IN POLICY ASSESSMENT.
LOWRIE

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